

Congressman Mike Pence gave the following speech from the floor of the U.S. House in support of President Obama's Afghanistan strategy, but cautioned against arbitrary timelines and imposing a war surtax:

"After months of deliberation, the president announced yesterday his decision to endorse the request for reinforcements by our commanding officer in Afghanistan and I support his decision.

"By calling for a surge of forces in Afghanistan, President Obama is embracing the counterinsurgency strategy that succeeded in Iraq, and if given the chance will succeed again.

"The war in Afghanistan is a war of necessity and a decisive victory over the Taliban and Al Qaeda must remain our unchanging objective.

"While reinforcements are critical to achieving victory, the morale of our troops and the unequivocal support of those at home is also important.

""Our brave men and women in uniform need to know that those who send them into battle will stand by them until the battle is won. Congress should resist the temptation to impose artificial timelines for withdrawal or benchmarks as they only demoralize our troops and embolden our enemies. Telling the enemy when your commitment to fight will run out is a prescription for defeat.

"Congress should also reject any effort to pass a tax increase on the backs of our soldiers. Levying a war 'surtax' at a time of runaway federal spending is an insult to our men and women in uniform."